

[0118] In one embodiment, first and second sides of the horseshoe 880 may have a different appearance (e.g., different colors, different illumination, different indicia, etc.). The side of the horseshoe 880 viewable from the viewing window 704 may be indicative of the bonus value. For example, the first and second sides may be colored silver and gold, respectively, and the gold side is viewable from the viewing window 704 may indicate a higher bonus than if the silver side is viewable from the viewing window 704. In one embodiment, the gold side may be viewable when the open-end of the horseshoe faces up.

[0119] FIG. 20 is a flowchart of an operating routine 900 that may be stored in the memory of the secondary display controller 114. The flow of FIG. 20 will be described with reference to FIGS. 3 and 16-19. At block 904, the secondary display controller 114 may receive a message from the main controller 100 indicating that the player is to be awarded a bonus. At block 908, the secondary display controller 114 may receive from the main controller 100 an indication or indications of the positions at which the numeric display 860 and the horseshoe 880 should be stopped. Additionally, the secondary display controller 114 may receive from the main controller 100 an indication or indications of a number to be displayed on the numeric display 860. At block 912, the secondary display controller 114 may initialize and start a timer. The timer may indicate an approximate time during which the numeric display 860 and the horseshoe 880 should move, and during which the numbers on the numeric display should continuously change.

[0120] At block 916, the secondary display controller 114 may cause the horseshoe 880 to start spinning. For example, the secondary display controller 114 may control the motor 792 to start the horseshoe 880 spinning at a particular spin rate. At block 920, the secondary display controller 114 may cause the numeric display 860 to start moving. For example, the secondary display controller 114 may control the motor 736 to cause the numeric display 860 to move back and forth between the maximum front position and the maximum rear position as indicated by the sensors 770 and 774.

[0121] At block 924, the secondary display controller 114 may cause the numbers on the numeric display 860 to start changing. For example, the secondary display controller 114 may cause different numbers to be displayed on the numeric display 860 in rapid succession. The number displayed on the numeric display 860 may change, for example, approximately every 0.1 second, 0.5 second, 1 second, 2 seconds, 3 seconds, etc. The numbers may be changed at equal or different intervals. In some embodiments, the displayed numbers may be randomly or pseudo-randomly generated by the secondary display controller 114. In other embodiments, the secondary display controller 114 may alternately display numbers from a list of numbers stored in a memory.

[0122] At block 928, it may be determined whether the timer started at block 912 has timed-out. If the timer has not timed-out, the flow may proceed to block 932. At block 932, the secondary display controller 114 may continue to cause the numeric display 860 and the horseshoe 880 to move, and to cause different numbers to be displayed on the numeric display 860. If the timer has timed-out, the flow may proceed to block 936. At block 936, the secondary display controller 114 may set up to stop the movement of the numeric display 860 and the horseshoe 880, and to stop changing the numbers on the numeric display 860.

[0123] In one embodiment, the secondary display controller 114 sets up so that the numeric display 860 can be stopped at its ending position, the horseshoe can be stopped at its ending position, and the numbers displayed on the numeric display 860 can be stopped at the ending number as indicated at block 908, all approximately simultaneously. The set up may include, for example, progressively slowing down the movement of the numeric display 860 and/or the horseshoe 880. The set up may include progressively slowing down the rate at which different numbers are displayed on the numeric display 860. In one embodiment, the set up may include determining a final set of numbers to display on the numeric display 860. The set up may also include performing calculations based on the current positions of the numeric display 860 and the horseshoe 880 so that the movement of the numeric display 860 and the horseshoe 880 can be made to stop at their ending positions approximately simultaneously.

[0124] At block 940, it may be determined if the numeric display 860 is at its respective ending position, if the horseshoe 880 is at its respective ending position, and if the number displayed on the numeric display 860 is the ending number, as indicated at block 808. The ending position of the numeric display 860 may be, for example, the maximum front position, the maximum rear position, just in front of the transition position, just to the rear of the transition position, etc. The ending position of the horseshoe 880 may be, for example, its open end facing up or its open end facing down. Other ending positions of the numeric display 860 and the horseshoe 880 may be utilized as well.

[0125] If the numeric display 860 and the horseshoe 880 are not at their respective stopping positions, and if the displayed 944 is not the ending number, the flow may proceed to block 944. At block 944, the secondary display controller 114 may keep the numeric display 860 moving if it is not at its ending position. Also, the secondary display controller 114 may keep the horseshoe 880 moving if it is not at its ending position. Additionally, the secondary display controller 114 may display a different number on the numeric display 860 moving if it is not currently displaying the ending number. For example, the secondary display controller 114 may attempt to stop the movement and the changing displayed numbers such that it would appear to a person looking through the viewing window 704 that the movement of the numeric display 860 and the horseshoe 880, and the changing of the displayed numbers stopped at least approximately simultaneously. For instance, the secondary display controller 114 may attempt to stop the movement of the numeric display 860 and the horseshoe 880, and the changing of the displayed numbers, within 3 seconds, 2 seconds, 1 second, 0.5 second, etc. of each other.

[0126] At block 948, the secondary display controller 114 may stop movement of the numeric display 860 at its ending position, may stop movement of the horseshoe 880 at its ending position, and may display the ending number on the numeric display 860. Additionally, the secondary display controller 114 may send a message to the main controller 100 that indicates the secondary display controller 114 has stopped the numeric display 860 and the horseshoe 880 at their respective ending positions, and has displayed the ending number on the numeric display 860.

[0127] Referring again to FIG. 16, the object 712 may include or depict a shape or shapes other than a horseshoe,